

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A flexible absorbent article suitable for use with a garment, ~~characterized in that~~ said article has a flexibility when measured according to stiffness tester AB Lorentzen & Wettre at 38°C that is of at least 20% more than the flexibility of said article when measured at 23°C.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An article according to claim 1, wherein said article has a flexibility when measured according to stiffness tester AB Lorentzen & Wettre at 38°C that is of 25% more than the flexibility of said article when measured at 23°C.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An article according to claim 1 wherein said article has a flexibility of about 100 mN to about 10 mN when measured according to stiffness tester AB Lorentzen & Wettre at 23°C.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An article according to claim 1 wherein said flexibility when measured according to stiffness tester AB Lorentzen & Wettre at 38°C is in the range of about 100 mN to about 10 mN.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An article according to claim 1 wherein said article has a total liquid absorption capacity of more than 1 g, as measured on the entire article.
6. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An article according to claim 1 wherein the maximum thickness of said article is less than 3 mm.
7. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An article according to claim 1 wherein the article has a flexibility in a transverse direction which is at least 10% more than its flexibility in a longitudinal direction when measured with a AB Lorentzen & Wettre apparatus at 23°C.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The An~~ article according to claim 1 wherein said article comprises a liquid absorbent thermoplastic composition comprising a thermoplastic polymeric base material having particles of water-insoluble water swellable absorbent material dispersed therein.
9. (Currently Amended) ~~The An~~ article according to claim 8 wherein said liquid absorbent thermoplastic composition is configured in a plurality of unattached spaced apart zones.
10. (Currently Amended) ~~The An~~ absorbent article according to claims 8 or 9 wherein said liquid absorbent thermoplastic composition comprises from about 5% to about 99% by weight of a polymeric base material comprising a thermoplastic polymer or a mixture thereof, and from about 1% to about 95% by weight of particles of water insoluble water swellable absorbent material.
11. (Currently Amended) ~~The An~~ absorbent article according to claim 10 wherein said polymeric base material is a hot melt adhesive typically comprising from about 10% to about 50% by weight of a block copolymer, from about 0% to about 50% by weight of a tackifying resin, from about 10% to about 80% by weight of a plasticizer and from about 0% to about 2.0% by weight of antioxidant.
12. (Currently Amended) ~~The An~~ article according to claim 8 wherein said liquid absorbent thermoplastic composition has a tensile strength in a wet state which is at least 20%, of the tensile strength of said composition in dry state, said tensile strengths evaluated according to the Tensile Strength Test described herein.
13. (Currently Amended) ~~The An~~ article according to claim 8, wherein said particles of water-insoluble water swellable absorbent material have a substantially angle-lacking shape and most preferably have an average particle diameter in dry state of below 150  $\mu\text{m}$ .
14. (Currently Amended) ~~The An~~ article according to claim 8 wherein said article comprises a liquid pervious surface typically provided per a topsheet, a liquid impervious surface typically provided per a backsheet and an absorbent element sandwiched between the liquid pervious surface and the liquid impervious surface, said absorbent element comprising said liquid absorbent thermoplastic composition comprising a thermoplastic polymeric base

material having particles of water-insoluble water swellable absorbent material dispersed therein, typically configured in unattached spaced apart zones, most preferably stripes.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An article according to claim 14, wherein within the absorbent element the liquid absorbent thermoplastic composition represents at least 15% by weight of the total weight of the absorbent element.
16. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An article according to claims 1, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14 or 15 wherein said article is a feminine protection article.